

1 S.122

2 Introduced by Senators Ayer and Brock

3 Referred to Committee on Government Operations

4 Date: March 20, 2010

5 Subject: Election; statewide office; recount

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to provide that in an election for a  
7 statewide office, if the difference between the number of votes cast for a  
8 winning candidate and the number of votes cast for a losing candidate is less  
9 than two percent of the total votes cast for all the candidates for an office,  
10 divided by the number of persons to be elected, that losing candidate shall have  
11 the right to have the votes for that office recounted.

12 An act relating to recounts in elections for statewide offices

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 ~~Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2601 is amended to read:~~

15 ~~§ 2601. RECOUNTS~~

16 ~~If In an election for a statewide office, if the difference between the number~~  
17 ~~of votes cast for a winning candidate and the number of votes cast for a losing~~  
18 ~~candidate is less than two percent of the total votes cast for all the candidates~~  
19 ~~for an office, divided by the number of persons to be elected, that losing~~  
20 ~~candidate shall have the right to have the votes for that office recounted. In an~~

1 ~~election for all other offices, if the difference between the number of votes cast~~  
2 ~~for a winning candidate and the number of votes cast for a losing candidate is~~  
3 ~~less than five percent of the total votes cast for all the candidates for an office,~~  
4 ~~divided by the number of persons to be elected, that losing candidate shall have~~  
5 ~~the right to have the votes for that office recounted.~~

*Sec. 1. Secs. 6, 7, and 8 of No. 73 of the Acts of 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010) are amended to read:*

*Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2386 is amended to read:*

*§ 2386. TIME FOR FILING STATEMENTS*

*(a) Statements pursuant to this subchapter, except for vacancies created by the death or withdrawal of a candidate after the primary ~~and statements for minor party candidates and independent candidates~~, shall be filed ~~not earlier than the second Thursday after the first Monday in June before the day of the general election and not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the primary election~~ as set forth in section 2356 of this title.*

*(b) In the case of the death or withdrawal of a candidate after the primary election, the party committee shall have seven days from the date of the withdrawal to nominate a candidate. In no event, shall a statement be filed later than 60 days prior to the election.*

*Sec. 7. 17 V.S.A. § 2402(d) is amended to read:*

*(d) A statement of nomination and a completed and signed consent form shall be filed ~~not sooner than the second Thursday after the first Monday in June and not later than the third day after the primary election~~ as set forth in section 2356 of this title. No public official receiving nominations shall accept a petition unless a completed and signed consent form is filed at the same time.*

*Sec. 8. 17 V.S.A. § 2413 is amended to read:*

*§ 2413. NOMINATION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE*

*(a) The party members in each town, on or before the ~~fourth~~ first Tuesday of August in each even numbered year, upon the call of the town committee, may meet in caucus and nominate candidates for justice of the peace. The committee shall give notice of the caucus as provided in subsection (d) of this section and the chairman and secretary shall file the statements required in ~~sections section 2385 through 2387~~ section 2385 through 2387 of this title not later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the primary election.*

*(b) If it does not hold a caucus as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the town committee shall meet and nominate candidates for justices of the peace as provided in sections 2381 through ~~2387~~ 2385 of this title.*

*(c) In any town in which a political party has not formally organized, any three members of the party who are voters in the town may call a caucus to nominate candidates for justice of the peace by giving notice as required in subsection (d) of this section. Upon meeting, the caucus shall first elect a chairman and a secretary. Thereafter the caucus shall nominate its candidates for justice of the peace, and cause its chairman and secretary to file the statements required in ~~sections~~ section 2385 through 2387 of this title not later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the primary election.*

\* \* \*

*Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2601 is amended to read:*

*§ 2601. RECOUNTS*

*¶ In an election for statewide office, county office, or state senator, if the difference between the number of votes cast for a winning candidate and the number of votes cast for a losing candidate is less than two percent of the total votes cast for all the candidates for an office, that losing candidate shall have the right to have the votes for that office recounted. In an election for all other offices, if the difference between the number of votes cast for a winning candidate and the number of votes cast for a losing candidate is less than five percent of the total votes cast for all the candidates for an office, divided by the number of persons to be elected, that losing candidate shall have the right to have the votes for that office recounted.*

*Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE*

*This act shall take effect upon passage.*